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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 003875

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NSC STAFF FOR SINGH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/21/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: EGYPT: UPDATE ON ACTIVIST DETENTIONS

REF: A. CAIRO 2761

[1](#)B. CAIRO 3270

Classified by ECPO Counselor John Desrocher for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Bahey Eddin Hassan, Director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, confirmed to poloff June 21 press reports that influential blogger Alaa Saif Al-Islam will be released from GOE custody in the next few days. Al-Islam was detained on May 7 (ref A) with a number of other democracy activists from the Kefaya movement during protests in support of judicial independence. Hassan, who is also Al-Islam's father-in-law, notes that the release order has not yet been implemented but that Al-Islam could be freed anytime in the next few days. Hassan added that Al-Islam and other activists detained with him have refused to cooperate with prosecutors by providing statements or answering questions on their activities.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Post understands that approximately 20 other democracy activists, detained at the same time as Al-Islam, may also be released in the coming days. However, post has also learned that the GOE has extended for a further fifteen days the detention (ref B) of Mohammad Al-Sharqawy (who has alleged torture at the hands of the police) and Kamal Al-Shaer, both of whom were arrested at May 25 demonstrations.
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